NUMB. CCCCLV.

The SPECTATOR.

----- Ego Apis Matinæ
More modoque
Grata Carpentis thyma per laborem
Plurimum -----

Tueſday, Auguſt 12. 1712.

THE following Letters have in them Reflections, which will ſeem of Importance both to the Learned World and to Domeſtick Life. There is in the firſt an Allegory ſo well carry'd on, that it cannot but be very pleaſing to theſe who have a Taſte of good Writing; and the other Billets may have their Uſe in common Life.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'AS I walked t'other Day in a fine Garden, and 'obſerv'd the great Variety of Improvements 'in Plants and Flowers beyond what they other-'wiſe would have been, I was naturally led into a 'Reflection upon the Advantages of Education, or 'moral Culture; how many good Qualities in the 'Mind are loſt, for want of the like due Care in 'nurſing and ſkilfully managing them; how ma-'ny Virtues are choak'd, by the Multitude of 'Weeds which are ſuffer'd to grow among them; 'how excellent Parts are often ſtarved and uſeleſs, 'by being planted in a wrong Soil; and how very 'ſeldom do theſe moral Seeds produce the noble 'Fruits which might be expected from them, by a 'Neglect of proper Manuring, neceſſary Pruning, and 'an artful Management of our tender Inclinations 'and firſt Spring of Life. Theſe obvious Specu-'lations made me at length conclude, that there 'is a Sort of vegetable Principle in the Mind of 'every Man when he comes into the World. In 'Infants the Seeds lie buried and undiſcovered, till 'after a While they ſprout forth in a kind of ra-'tional *Leaves*, which are *Words*; and in a due 'Seaſon the *Flowers* begin to appear in Variety of 'beautiful Colours, and all the gay Pictures of 'youthful Fancy and Imagination; at laſt the 'Fruit knits and is form'd, which is green, perhaps, 'firſt, and ſoure, unpleaſant to the Taſte, and not 'fit to be gather'd; till ripen'd by due Care and 'Application, it diſcovers it ſelf in all the noble 'Productions of Philoſophy, Mathematicks, cloſe 'Reaſoning, and handſome Argumentation: And 'theſe Fruits, when they arrive at a juſt Maturity, 'and are of a good Kind, afford the moſt vigo-'rous Nouriſhment to the Minds of Men. I re-'flected further on the intellectual Leaves before-'mentioned, and found almoſt as great a Variety 'among them as in the vegetable World. I could 'eaſily obſerve the ſmooth ſhining *Italian* Leaves; 'the nimble *French* Aſpen, always in Motion; the '*Greek* and *Latin* Ever-greens, the *Spaniſh* Myrtle, 'the *Engliſh* Oak, the *Scotch* Thiſtle, the *Iriſh* 'Shambrogue, the prickly *German* and *Dutch* Hol-'ly, the *Poliſh* and *Ruſſian* Nettle, beſides a vaſt 'Number of Exoticks imported from *Aſia*, *Africk*, 'and *America*. I ſaw ſeveral barren Plants, which 'bore only Leaves, without any Hopes of Flower 'or Fruit: The Leaves of ſome were fragrant and 'well-ſhap'd, of others ill-ſcented and irregular. 'I wonder'd at a Set of old whimſical Botaniſts, 'who ſpent their whole Lives in the Contempla-'tion of ſome withered *Ægyptian*, *Coptick*, *Arme-'nian*, or *Chineſe* Leaves, while others made it 'their Buſineſs to collect in voluminous Herbals 'all the ſeveral Leaves of ſome one Tree. The 'Flowers afforded a moſt diverting Entertainment, 'in a wonderful Variety of Figures, Colours and 'Scents; however, moſt of them wither'd ſoon, 'or at beſt are but *Annuals*. Some profeſs'd Floriſts 'make them their conſtant Study and Employment, 'and deſpiſe all Fruit; and now and then a few 'fanciful People ſpend all their Time in the Culti-'vation of a ſingle Tulip, or a Carnation: But the 'moſt agreeable Amuſement ſeems to be the well 'chuſing, mixing, and binding together theſe Flow-'ers, in pleaſing Noſegays to preſent to Ladies. The 'Scent of *Italian* Flowers is obſerv'd, like their 'other Perfume, to be too ſtrong, and to hurt

the

Brain; that of the *French* with glaring, gaudy Colours, yet faint and languid; *German* and *Northern* Flowers have little or no Smell, or sometimes an unpleasant one. The Ancients had a Secret to give a lasting Beauty, Colour, and Sweetness to some of their choice Flowers, which flourish to this Day, and which few of the Moderns can effect. These are becoming enough and agreeable in their Season, and do often handsomely adorn an Entertainment; but an Overfondness of them seems to be a Disease. It rarely happens to find a Plant vigorous enough, to have (like an Orange-Tree) at once beautiful shining Leaves, fragrant Flowers, and delicious nourishing Fruit.

SIR, yours, &c.

Dear SPEC. *August 6, 1712.*

'YOU have given us in your *Spectator* of *Saturday* last, a very excellent Discourse upon the Force of Custom, and its wonderful Efficacy in making every thing pleasant to us. I cannot deny but that I received above Two-penny-worth of Instruction from your Paper, and in the General was very well pleased with it; but I am, without a Compliment, sincerely troubled that I cannot exactly be of your Opinion, That it makes every thing pleasing to us. In short, I have the Honour to be yoked to a young Lady, who is, in plain *English*, for her Standing, a very eminent Scold. She began to break her Mind very freely both to me and to her Servants about two Months after our Nuptials; and tho' I have been accustomed to this Humour of hers this three Years, yet, I do not know what's the Matter with me, but I am no more delighted with it than I was at the very first. I have advised with her Relations about her, and they all tell me that her Mother and her Grandmother before her were both taken much after the same Manner; so that since it runs in the Blood, I have but small Hopes of her Recovery. I should be glad to have a little of your Advice in this Matter: I wou'd not willingly trouble you to contrive how it may be a Pleasure to me; if you will but put me in a Way that I may bear it with Indifference, I shall rest satisfied.

Dear SPEC.

Your very humble Servant.

P. S. 'I must do the poor Girl the Justice to let you know, that this Match was none of her own chusing, (or indeed of mine either;) in Consideration of which I avoid giving her the least Provocation; and indeed we live better together than usually Folks do who hated one another when they were first joyn'd. To evade the Sin against Parents, or at least to extenuate it, my Dear rails at my Father and Mother, and I curse hers for making the Match.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Like the Theme you lately gave out extremely, and should be as glad to handle it as any Man living: But I find my self no better qualified to write about Money, than about my Wife; for, to tell you a Secret, which I desire may go no further, I am Master of neither of those Subjects.

Yours,

Aug. 8. 1712 Pill Garlick.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Desire you would print this in *Italick*, so as it may be generally taken Notice of. It is designed only to admonish all Persons, who speak either at the Bar, Pulpit, or any publick Assembly whatsoever, how they discover their Ignorance in the Use of Similies. There are in the Pulpit it self, as well as other Places such gross Abuses in this Kind, that I give this Warning to all I know. I shall bring them for the Future before your Spectatorial Authority. On *Sunday* last, one, who shall be nameless, reproving several of his Congregation for standing at Prayers, was pleased to say, *One would think*, like the Elephant, *you had no Knees:* Now I my self saw an Elephant in *Bartholomew-Fair* kneel down to take on his Back the ingenious Mr. *William Penkethman.*

Your most humble Servant.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Tuesday, being the 12th of August, will be revived a Comedy, call'd Don Carlos, Prince of Spain. The Part of Don Carlos by Mr. Booth, Don Johan of Austria Mr Powel, Queen Mrs. Bradshaw. To which will be added, a Farce, call'd, The Petticoat Plotter, being the last time of Acting it this Summer; With the New Prologue which was spoke (to the Cutter of Coleman street) by Mr. Pack.

Lately publish'd, and are to be Sold by Mr. Lintott and Mr. Sanger near Temple-Bar,

LA SECCHIA: The BUCKET. A Mock-Heroic. Done from the Italian by Mr. Ozell. Occasioned by an Accident that happen'd in Italy Anno 1248, between the Guelphs and Gibellines, the Whig and Tory Parties of those Times. N.B. The SECCHIA of Tassoni is a Satire of the Varronian kind: The Words are stately, the Numbers smooth, the turn both of Thought and Words is happy: The first six Lines of each Stanza seem Mystical and Severe, but the two last turn them all into a pleasant Ridicule: Boileau has modell'd from hence his famous Lutrin. Mr. Dryden's Preface to Juvenal, p. 49. of the Fol. Edition § Lepidissimum Poema Heroico Comicum, quod SECCHIA rapita scripsit ac in multis locis edidit. Leo Allatius, ex nova Epistola ad Franciscum Ricciardum § To all the Editions, except the first, the Title of Rapita was added, chiefly because they were so greedily bought up that the People did as it were ravish them from each other. See Brugiotti's Preface to the Edition of Roncilione 1624: Perchè non bastando all'avidità degli huomini gli esemplari già stampati, &c. Piacque a me rapivano i manuscritti, e i Lettori Puro all'altro gli rapivano.

This Day will be Publish'd in the Evening-Post.

A Geographical Description of Doway; As also, A Plan of the City and Fort Scarpe, curiously engraven on Copper-Plate.

New Helps for pur-blind, short-sighted, old, decay'd and weak Eyes of Persons, who find no sufficient Relief in the Use of common Optick Glasses, are to be had at Mr. Lengerken's, next Door to the White Hart, about the Middle of Long-acre; being considerable Improvements of Reading, Country-Prospect, and Opera-Glasses, so contriv'd as to fit every particular Eye and Distance, either by Day or Candle-light. The smallest Size of them may conveniently serve for the Head of a Cane, or Button of a Fan. Some make the Objects appear smaller and more distinct, others nearer and bigger; and the new Squinting Glasses serve to take a Side-view of any Person, as you seem to look a different Way, without Suspicion of Staring. Such as live in the Country need but give an Account of their Age, how long their Eyes have been defective, what they want in using common Glasses, and the greatest Distance they can read small Print at. Physical Advice in Defects of the Sight and Hearing is to be had Gratis at the same Place from 4 to 6 at Night.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.